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Kent, England Christianized by  
mission of Augustine.

Sugory wrote a letter to  
Augustine to continue his mission.  
The letter was dated

Dated the twenty-third of July,  
in the fourteenth year of the reign  
of most pious Emperor Maurice  
Tiberius Augustus, and the thirteenth  
year after his consulship: the fourteenth

indiction. The emperor referred to is  
Maurice of Constantinople, whom the Romans  
at this time nominally regarded as the  
titular ruler of the West. The Indiction is  
the year in the fifteen-year cycle that  
had been used since Diocletian's time  
to date Rome's financial and legal  
dealings.

The Celts placed the date of Christ's Crucifixion on a Thursday, instead of a Friday. This meant their Easter had to fall (according to the Jewish Cal.) between NISAN 14 and 20, while Rome said the date must fall between NISAN 15 and 21.

Pope Gregory in 596 dispatched Augustine, a Greek monk and Gregory's former monastic roommate, from St. Peter's to evangelize the distant Britons.

When Augustine and an entourage of 40 monks "progressed a short distance on their journey, they became afraid and began to

consider returning home. For they were  
appalled at the idea of going to a  
barbarous, fierce, and pagan nation,  
of whose very language they were  
ignorant. The monks became so fearful  
that they voted to send Augustine back  
to Rome so that he might humbly request  
the holy Gregory to recall them from so  
dangerous, audacious, and uncertain  
a journey. Gregory understood their  
reluctance but ordered them to continue

596

Duncan: Cal

During ~~these~~ <sup>the</sup> days of the empire, the journey north from Italy, through southern France, and onward to Britain took several days through a ~~through~~ a settled country with good roads. In 596, the journey took weeks to pass through territories thick with thieves, marauders, and stretches of land once peaceful and under till, but now

abandoned. Traveling by ship across the  
Channel Augustine arrived at EBBSFLEET  
on the island of THANET, where the Germanic  
king of Kent, AETHELBERT, met him  
in the open air. Aethelbert was married  
to a Christian princess from the Frankish  
royal house but remained pagan himself.  
He chose an open field (Bede says) because he  
held an ancient superstition that if they  
were practisers of magical arts, they might have  
opportunities to deceive and master him "should  
he meet them in a more enclosed space



Late 590's

Under an ancient gnarled oak in southwest England, the FIRST archbishop of Canterbury held a meeting to settle a local dispute over Easter.

The Archbishop (a monk named Augustine) (not Augustine of Hippo) was trying to convince a delegation of CELTS from the western side of England to abandon their system of calculating the Easter date, which

deviated from St. Peter's in Rome. Isolated  
since the last legion left the island in 410,  
these Celts had been christianized late in  
the Roman era only to find themselves  
cut loose soon after from both the  
empire and the Church in Rome.

Since then, waves of invasion by Saxons  
and Angles had driven these ancient  
Britons into what is now Wales where  
they joined with other Christian Celts from  
Ireland. They had their own ideas about  
dating the Resurrection.

Late 590's

FIRST

The Archbishop, Augustine, of  
Canterbury in his meeting with  
the Celts, asserted that God was on  
his side in calculating Easter.  
To prove it he reportedly restored  
sight to a blind man under the  
oak where the meeting was.  
They were unconvinced & Augustine  
prophesied that bad would come

to them

A few years later, a brutal Saxon King named AETHELFRITH (d. 616) "raised a great army and made a great slaughter of the faithless Britons". The dead included 1,200 Bede unarmed monks massacred near their monastery at Bangor, south of modern Liverpool)

England is indebted to the  
Benedictines for her first  
library at Canterbury  
also for St Peter's at York  
for St. Cuthbert's at Durham  
and those at Bury, St Edmunds,  
St Albans, and others